

Superintendent of Public Gardens. "The root is formed of a number of simple cord-like fibres, several feet in length, stretching under the surface of the ground, bearing in their course a succession of tubers. The beans are poisonous, but the root affords a very plentiful supply of very wholesome food. The produce of three plants is usually sufficient to fill a bushel basket. The tubers may either be boiled plain, in which state they are a very good substitute for yams and other roots in common use; or they may be submitted to a process similar to arrowroot, and a starch obtained. This starch is pure white, and is equal in every respect to arrowroot. To the taste it is very palatable, is easily digested, and is employed for custards and puddings. Even the trash left after obtaining the starch, and which in the preparation of arrowroot is lost, may, when thoroughly dried, be formed into a palatable and wholesome flour. A very excellent flour may also be obtained by slicing the tubers, drying them in the sun, and then reducing to a powder. This plant is deserving of being more generally cultivated than it has hitherto been. It ought in a great measure to supersede the arrowroot in cultivation. It can be planted at any season of the year, and the roots are fit for digging in the course of four or five months; the return is infinitely greater than that from arrowroot, and the proportion of starch also is more abundant, so that it can be brought to market at so cheap a rate, as to admit of being employed by the calico-printers in place of potato-starch. Dr. Trimen, pointed out that the pods when young are not poisonous, but may be eaten like French beans, being superior in the absence of any fibrous string along the sutures of the pod. The large size is also an advantage, as they are often 10 to 12 inches long. In Jamaica the seeds are generally sown in March or April, but they can be sown at any time. At Hope Gardens seeds were sown in September. The pods are ready for use as French beans 7 months after sowing and when pods are quite ripe, 9 months after sowing, the yams are fit to dig. From one seed sown at Hope Gardens 5 yams were dug weighing altogether 14 pounds. They generally vary in size from one foot to eighteen inches long, and 4 to 6 inches in diameter." (Harris, Bull. Bot. Dept. Jamaica, 44:4(1893). For distribution later.

CORYLUS AVELLANA. (Fagaceae.) 33234. Plants of hazel nut from Granada, Spain. Procured from Mr. Pedro Giraud, through Mr. Walter T. Swingle, of this Department. "Rouge ronde. Spain furnishes the bulk of the hazel nuts that enter into the world's commerce, whole regions being given up to this remunerative culture in the north of Spain. It is said to prefer rather light, cool soils and to grow well with more or